

# Efforts planned to make town's water supply cleaner

by John Chaffee  
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DUXBURY — Despite reports of minute amounts of nonhazardous bacteria in recent water samples, Water Superintendent Carl Hillstrom said Duxbury's water is safe.

"Everything was clean," Hillstrom said of the latest tests of water from all 10 town wells.

But two problems remain visible in town water: copper and iron.

Copper pipes inside homes cause the green stains on sinks, bathtubs and shower stalls, Hillstrom said.

And iron, some from old cast-iron mains, and some from town wells, cause red-brown staining.

Efforts are under way to solve both prob-

## Duxbury

lems, Hillstrom said.

The entire municipal water system will be flushed this month, for the first time in many years, to remove built-up sediments and to ensure that there's adequate water pressure at all hydrants.

While the flushing is under way, homeowners may notice a drop in pressure and some discoloration.

"It may not look too appetizing, but it's perfectly safe to drink," Hillstrom said.

However, he said, residents "should check the water before doing any laundry."

To combat copper staining, corrosion con-

trol devices have been installed at all town wells, Hillstrom said.

And a consultant has been hired to determine the best way to combat iron deposits.

"We hope to go to the annual town meeting in March with a proposal to remove the iron," Hillstrom said.

Water from the Evergreen II well in the southeastern part of town, has a particularly high iron content, Hillstrom said. As a result, it is used only in emergencies.

Although the state has limited the amount of water Duxbury can draw from its aquifer to 1.85 million gallons daily, a new well, Mayflower II, will begin operation this week.

"With the new well, our supply should be adequate even without Evergreen II," Hillstrom said.

As for the cast-iron mains, Hillstrom said he will soon draft long-term plans to replace them.

"There will be a tremendous amount of work to do to eliminate the old mains," he said.

Hillstrom, named Duxbury's water and sewer superintendent in March after 10 years as water supervisor in Marshfield, said he can't explain the results of water samples that tested positive for coliform bacteria.

Eight test sites tested positive Sept. 5.

Suspecting the sample bottles may have been contaminated, Hillstrom switched testing laboratories.

New tests indicated no bacteria.

"Water quality is a major issue," Hillstrom said. "That's why we're working to make Duxbury's water as pure as we can."

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